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Message Text

CONFIDENTIAL

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15
ACTION EA-09

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 NSAE-00 NSCE-00 SSO-00

USIE-00 INRE-00 PM-04 H-02 INR-07 L-03 NSC-05 PA-01

PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 /050 W
---------- 077479
O R 150915Z AUG 75
FM AMEMBASSY TAIPEI
TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 6648
INFO USTDC
AMEMBASSY MANILA

C O N F I D E N T I A L TAIPEI 5275

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: MILI, TW, US
SUBJECT: DEATH OF US AIRMAN

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1. ON JULY 18 THREE US AIRMEN STATIONED AT SHU LINKOU AIR STATION WERE ASSAULTED BY A GROUP OF LOCAL NATIONALS IN AN APPARENTLY UNPROVOKED ATTACK OUTSIDE OF A BAR IN TAIPEI. ONE OF THE AIRMEN, SERGEANT LESLIE C. OBERHOLZER, OF THE 6987TH SECURITY GROUP, SHU LINKOU AIR STATION DIED OF COMPLICATIONS AT THE USAF HOSPITAL AT CLARK AIR BASE IN THE PHILIPPINES AUGUST 2. THE CASE IS STILL UNDER INVESTI-GATION BY CHINESE AND US AUTHORITIES.

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2. USTDC PAO HAS RECEIVED SEVERAL QUERIES FROM ASSOCIATED PRESS. THE FOLLOWING STATEMENT WAS USED IN RESPONSE TO QUERIES ON AUGUST 8 AND AUGUST 13:

"ON AUGUST 2, SERGEANT (E-4) LESLIE C. OBERHOLZER,
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OF 6987TH SECURITY GROUP, SHU LINKOU AIR STATION,

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TAIWAN, DIED AT THE US AIR FORCE HOSPITAL AT CLARK
AB IN THE PHILIPPINES.

"SERGEANT OBERHOLZER, AGE 22, DIED OF INJURIES RECEIVED
JULY 18 AS A RESULT OF A STABBING INCIDENT IN TAIPEI.
HE WAS ORIGINALLY ADMITTED TO THE US NAVAL HOSPITAL
IN TAIPEI FOR TREATMENT OF HIS INJURIES. ON JULY 24
HE WAS FLOWN TO CLARK AB ABOARD A MEDICAL EVACUATION
FLIGHT FOR FURTHER TREATMENT.

"HIS CONDITION WORSENED, HIS PARENTS MR. AND MRS.
CLIFTON OBERHOLZER, OF JACKSON, OHIO, WERE FLOWN TO
CLARK AB TO BE WITH THEIR SON."

3. ON AUGUST 15 LOCAL AP CORRESPONDENT (APPARENTLY PROMPTED
BY A CABLE FROM AP'S NEW YORK OFFICE) AGAIN QUERIED TDC
CONCERNING CIRCUMSTANCES OF DEATH AND RESULTS OF INVESTI-
GATION. THE FOLLOWING STATEMENT HAS BEEN PREPARED FOR
USE IN RESPONSE TO AP AND ANY ADDITIONAL INQUIRIES:

"DURING THE EARLY MORNING HOURS OF JULY 18, SGT. OBER-
HOLZER AND TWO AIR FORCE COMPANIONS WERE STABBED BY
SEVERAL UNIDENTIFIED ASSAILANTS IN TAIPEI. SGT.
OBERHOLZER DIED AS A RESULT OF COMPLICATIONS FROM THE STAB
WOUNDS AT CLARK AB USAF HOSPITAL ON AUGUST 2.
HIS TWO COMPANIONS, WHO WERE ALSO WOUNDED, HAVE RECOVERED
AND RETURNED TO DUTY. THE CASE IS STILL UNDER INVESTI-
GATION BYCHINESE AUTHORITIES AND LOCAL US MILITARY LAW
ENFORCEMENT AGENCIES."

4. IF PRESSED FOR FURTHER DETAILS TDC PLANS TO RESPOND
THAT THE CASE IS STILL UNDER INVESTIGATION AND THAT IT
WOULD BE INAPPROPRIATE FOR US SPOKESMAN TO COMMENT ON A
CASE IN WHICH CHINESE HAVE PRIMARY JURISDICTION.

5. THIS INCIDENT HAS NOT BEEN REPORTED IN THE LOCAL
PRESS.

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To: STATE
Type: TE
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